

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-11 and 13-23 under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. EP 0514861 to Previdi. Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's conclusions; but, to expedite issuance of the subject matter allowed by the Examiner, claims 1-11 and 14-23 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a divisional or continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter – Claim 12

The Examiner objected to claim 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but states that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been amended accordingly and claim 12 is now allowable. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 12.

Requested Admittance– Claim 13 & new claim 24

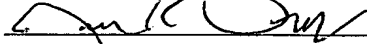
Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12. Because claim 12 has been rewritten into proper form for allowance, claim 13 is also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests admittance of this amendment to claim 13.

Added claim 24 also depends from rewritten claim 12 and adds additional limitations. The applicant respectfully requests admittance of this amendment.

Applicant submits that claims 12, 13 and 24 are allowable and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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